



**DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM
RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF THE DUNGENESS FLOW RESTORATION AND
AQUIFER RECHARGE OFF-CHANNEL RESERVOIR**

WHEREAS, the Dungeness River watershed is water-short most years during the critical period in late summer when both agricultural irrigators and ESA-listed salmonids rely on adequate streamflow; and

WHEREAS, reservoirs of water held in annual snowpack and ancient glaciers are decreasing over time, and extreme low-flow conditions on the River are becoming more frequent and exacerbated during drought years; and

WHEREAS, the Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) is a partnership of individuals and stakeholders working together to develop and pursue implementation of locally based, long-term solutions to Dungeness Watershed management issues for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the DRMT has vetted the reservoir project proposal and prioritized it over other flow restoration proposals because:

- The project addresses all DRMT's key River Restoration recommendations: flow restoration, aquifer recharge, and habitat and floodplain restoration.
- The DRMT recognizes that "low hanging fruit" is gone and remaining projects are complex and expensive but still necessary.
- An 88-acre, 1500 acre-feet off-channel reservoir is expensive no matter when or where it's built, but the Dungeness proposal saves potential cost because:
 - The parcel is timber land not zoned for development
 - Conveyance infrastructure and easements are already in place via the irrigation network
 - No pumping is required since location allows flow by gravity
 - The site is appropriate for and acceptable to the County for recreation as a County Park
- The reservoir planning team continues to identify ways to cut costs, fund future construction, find models for local cost-share for future operations, and facilitate aquifer recharge, and it works closely with the Dungeness Water Exchange with a dual mission of mitigation and restoration as administered by Washington Water Trust.

WHEREAS, the DRMT has discussed and supported proposals for water storage via reservoirs and aquifer recharge for well over a decade, including as a key recommendation in multiple plans, policies and studies, such as:

- Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula (2015)

- East WRIA 18 Instream Flow & Water Management Rule and the Dungeness Water Exchange Mitigation Plan (2012)
- Clallam County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (2009)
- Puget Sound Chinook ESU Recovery Plan (2007)
- Elwha-Dungeness (WRIA 18) Watershed Plan (2005)

WHEREAS, finding funding to implement the Flow Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Off-Channel Reservoir is DRMT's highest priority because the project addresses all top recommendations for River Restoration:

- Streamflow restoration: The reservoir provides significant flow benefits during the River's critical period for migrating salmonids. Avoidance of 30-50% of late summer irrigation diversions will retain up to 25 cfs of existing streamflow.
- Aquifer recharge: Stored winter-time high flows can be used for aquifer recharge in non-drought years when it doesn't need to be saved for late summer irrigation. Recharging the shallow aquifer has streamflow benefits and will offset impacts of consumptive groundwater withdrawals.
- Habitat and floodplain restoration: Up to 25 cfs of flow retention especially improves side-channel habitat important for certain species in certain life stages.
- Multiple other benefits include:
 - Long-term agricultural viability: Stored water provides reliable late-season irrigation supply for the agricultural industry over the long term. Without stored water, irrigation supplies are dependent on snowmelt sources, which are rapidly declining.
 - Climate resiliency: Decreasing water supplies is the biggest climate change concern for the region, and this project provides options for socioeconomic as well as environmental problems.
 - Stormwater pollution prevention: Capturing runoff will lessen stormwater volumes now entering urban areas where copper and rubber contamination can be lethal to fish, especially Coho.
 - Recreation, wildlife habitat, and other benefits
- Clallam County agrees to own the reservoir property and that the reservoir is its top water resources funding priority.
- Local stakeholders are mobilized and the reservoir planning group has great deal of popular support in the community and among agencies, including fish and wildlife interests. The planning group is actively identifying reservoir construction cost-cutting measures and local cost-share models for funding future operations.

WHEREAS, state funding for streamflow restoration projects will be made available to certain basins in Washington state including the Dungeness as allowed in ESSB 6091 (January 2018) and documentation of support from stakeholders and initiating governments is requested.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Dungeness River Management Team (membership listed below) supports the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir as its highest priority to implement flow

restoration, water storage and aquifer recharge because of its scale, location, cost/benefit and feasibility.

Adopted by the DRMT on this 10th day of October, 2018.

Signature: 

Name: Hansi Hals

Title: Chair, Dungeness River Management Team, and
NR Director, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

DRMT Membership (2018):

Organization	Member	Alternate
Voting Members		
Clallam County	Cathy Lear	Mary Ellen Winborn
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Hansi Hals	Shawn Hines
Riverside Property Owners (RM 0-3.25)	Robert Beebe	James Beebe
Water Users Association	Ben Smith	TBD
Sports Fisheries	Donald Hatler	N/A
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society	Robert Phreaner	Peter Walker
WA Department of Ecology	Michael Gallagher	N/A
Dungeness Beach Association	Robert Brown	TBD
City of Sequim	Ann Soule	David Garlington
North Olympic Land Trust	Michele Canale	TBD
Protect the Peninsula's Future	Judy Larson	Forest Koehler
Estuary Tidelands Property Owner	Matt Heins	N/A
Dungeness River Audubon Center	Powell Jones	Jenna Ziogas
WA Department of Fish and Wildlife	Danielle Zitomer	TBD
Advisory Members		
Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge	Lorenz Sollmann	Jennifer Brown-Scott
Clallam Conservation District	Joe Holtrop	Don Hatler
U.S. Forest Service	Yewah Lau	Marc McHenry
Clallam County PUD#1	Tom Martin	N/A